



ProLife Office <prolife@archkck.org>

Biweekly Ethics Update

1 message

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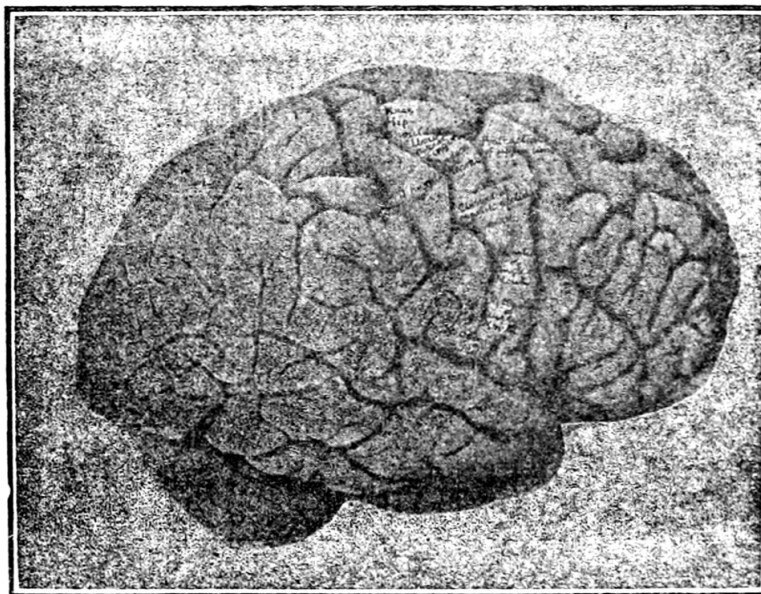
Wed, Jul 22, 2026 at 9:04 AM



Biweekly Ethics Update



The Moral Mind



Dignitas Cerebri

Joseph Meaney, PhD, KM

It sounds like science fiction or fake news: “**Not alive, but not dead: disembodied human brains used for drug testing.**”

Unfortunately, it is quite real and extremely troubling. A company

located next to Yale University, Bexorg, is obtaining human brains for experiments from organizations that procure donated organs for transplantation. This alone raises an ethical red flag, as I will explain later. Then they use a machine they developed called BrainEx to sustain the organ with artificial fluids that provide oxygen and filter waste through four sutured plastic ports where the blood vessels had previously been attached to the person's body. Lab techs inject the anesthetic propofol in order to prevent any electrical activity in the brain. Then for 24 hours they administer experimental drugs and use sensors to record the reactions in the brains as they metabolize chemicals. Finally, they slice the brains into hundreds of pieces for further study. Over 700 human brains have undergone this process, and they are scaling up to be able to handle 1,600 brains a year soon.

...to continue reading, click [here](#).

Announcements

Partnership with MyCatholicWill

The NCBC has partnered with MyCatholicWill, an online will-writing tool designed specifically for Catholics. In as little as 15 minutes, you can create a free, legally valid will that protects your family, honors your Catholic values, and allows you to consider a lasting gift to the NCBC's mission of equipping Catholics to live out their faith and uphold the dignity of the human person in health care and the life sciences.

No cost. No complexity. Just the peace of mind that comes from knowing your wishes are known and your legacy is secure.

Begin today at mycatholicwill.com/NCBCENTER.



Education Corner



The NCBC is hosting Two-day Seminars at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND on Oct. 1-2, 2026, and at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, NY on Oct. 23-24, 2026. These seminars, which address current topics in bioethics, will benefit health care professionals, medical and nursing students, clergy and religious, those involved in research in the life sciences, and those who provide spiritual support and counsel to patients and their families. Up to ten clinical medical education units (CMEs) are available for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and nurse practitioners. Individuals who seek to better understand and advance the Church's moral tradition in health care will also find the seminar accessible, educational, and informative.

For general information on NCBC Two-Day Seminars, click [here](#).
 To register for the Bismarck seminar, click [here](#).
 To register for the Rockville Centre seminar, click [here](#).

NCBC Publications

Available Now: *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services*, Seventh Edition

This seventh edition of the *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services* (ERDs) was approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in November 2025. The ERDs distill authoritative Church teachings and resources from the Catholic moral tradition to help Catholic health care address clinical

issues across the lifespan, as well as in organizational ethics, with fidelity and integrity.

The ERDs present a theological basis for Catholic health care ministry together with specific directives that "promote and protect the truths of the Catholic faith as those truths are brought to bear on concrete issues in health care" (Preamble, p. 5). They are an indispensable resource for health care ministry sponsors, trustees, administrators, chaplains, physicians, health care personnel, and patients, as well as for all professionals, ethicists, educators, and others interested in the principles and practice of Catholic health care.

**Ethical and
Religious
Directives for
Catholic Health
Care Services**

Seventh Edition

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The seventh edition of the ERDs includes updates and new content on topics including referral for immoral procedures, assisted reproductive technologies, palliative and hospice care, and medical interventions for those who experience gender incongruence.

Standard Pocket Size Version

To purchase, please click [here for smaller orders](#) (1-5 copies) or [here for bulk orders](#) (6 or more copies).

[Purchase NCBC Books and Resources](#)

Bioethics and Public Policy

Bioethics Public Policy Report

The NCBC's [update on public policy](#) developments in bioethics and health care on the state, federal, and international levels.

[Sign Up for NCBC Education Programs](#)

Video, Radio, and Podcasts



On Euthanasia and Dying Well - Franciscan University of Steubenville (FUS) Presents

Faith & Reason

Is it a loving choice to help someone end their suffering through euthanasia? How can extreme suffering be meaningful? What's the best way to help someone have a good death? Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center, discusses end-of-life issues with *Franciscan University Presents* host Father Dave Pivonka, president of FUS, Dr. Regis Martin, Professor of Systematic Theology at FUS, and Dr. Scott Hahn, the Father Scanlan Professor of Biblical Theology at FUS.

Why Catholic Bioethics Matter

Trending with Timmerie, Relevant Radio

NCBC President Dr. John Di Camillo joins host Timmerie Geagea to discuss whether hospitals practice proper determination of death, brain death, and organ donation.



Father Tad Discusses the Growing Pressure in France to Pass an Assisted Suicide Bill

Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo

Teresa Tomeo and Father Tad discuss the growing openness to physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia in France. France's National Assembly recently passed a bill approving both practices, and there appear to be dwindling options for pushing back against the initiative. They discuss the contradictions implicit in these efforts to legalize assisted suicide and euthanasia, as well as some common cultural misunderstandings surrounding dying and suffering that lead to efforts to promote a so-called "easy exit."

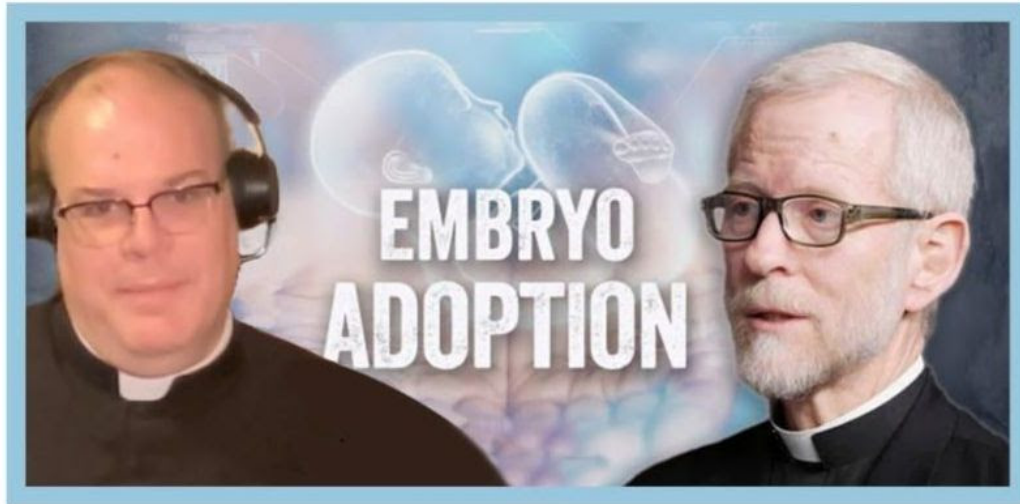
The Broad Strokes of Understanding AI and Computer Technologies Through a Catholic Lens, and the Importance of the Apostolate of Catholic Media

LA Catholic Morning on Archangel Radio

What are some of the ethical issues raised by AI in educational, business, and other settings? To be able to avail ourselves properly and judiciously of the many facets of modern technology requires both discipline and careful discernment. Father Tad discusses some of these challenges with Tom McDonald and Ellen Taylor as they co-host the show. They look at the need to shepherd young people towards a careful incorporation of technology into their lives. They also discuss the difficulties surrounding the growing abuse of AI, deepfakes, and other issues. They also reflect on the importance of supporting the work of those promoting Catholic media, whether through radio, TV, print, or through other means.

Two Priests, and a Public Debate

November 14, 2025 — Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Indianapolis



Rev. C. Ryan McCarthy, BA, MDiv

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Two Priests, and a Public Debate on Embryo Adoption

YouTube, St. John's Indy

In a world where human beings can be manufactured and frozen until they are chosen, complex dilemmas arise regarding the disposition of "leftover" human embryos. Is embryo adoption morally allowable to try to rescue abandoned embryos? What does the Church say? What are the arguments for and against this practice? Father Tad and Father Ryan McCarthy spar in this public debate that was sponsored by the Sanctity of Life Ministry at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis and the Pro-Life Ministry of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Indianapolis. The video of the debate has just become available following the completion of post-production work, exploring both sides of this complicated, nuanced issue.

“What Fertility Treatments Are Ethical? IVF, IUI, & Embryo Ethics” with Joe Zalot, PhD

Bioethics Babe

NCBC Director of Education Joe Zalot recently recorded the podcast episode “What Fertility Treatments Are Ethical?” with Arina Grossu Agnew of the Bioethics Babe podcast. Joe and Arina discussed the reasons for the Catholic Church’s teaching on

assisted reproductive technologies and then addressed specific interventions including two very common interventions, in vitro fertilization (IVF) and intrauterine insemination (IUI). They also spoke about challenges experienced by couples experiencing infertility and how the Church can best respond.



The First Synthetic Cells?

Relevant Radio, The Drew Mariani Show

Drew and Father Tad discuss a recent engineering development claiming to have produced entirely synthetic cells and another initiative involving the creation of human eggs in the laboratory to advance the science to create life (begins at 0:56). They unpack some of the issues surrounding these claims to have produced life from inorganic materials. They also look at the dangers of medical experimentation seeking to produce human gametes, especially when it crosses the bright moral line of creating new human life outside the marital embrace. They also consider the contradictory work of fertility clinics that oftentimes does not actually treat infertility by providing a therapy, but circumnavigates the root cause of the infertility to instead create a baby in glassware on behalf of the couple seeking treatment.

Invite an NCBC Speaker

NCBC in the News

On July 13, 2026, the NCBC, the Catholic Medical Association (CMA), and the National Association of Catholic Nurses, USA (NACN-USA) submitted **public comment** to the US Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Treasury advocating—for inclusion in employee health plans—Restorative Reproductive Medicine (RRM) rather than IVF and other procedures that separate the engendering of human life from the conjugal act. The

three news articles below mention this in light of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) submitting **public comment** urging the Labor Department to reject a proposed rule expanding insurance coverage for IVF.

U.S. bishops urge Labor Department to reject expanding IVF insurance coverage

EWTN News

This article notes the NCBC's **joint comment** with the CMA and NACN-USA called the initiative to expand infertility care "a valuable opportunity to advance real solutions to infertility that respects the God-given dignity of parents and of children, born and preborn," while simultaneously encouraging efforts "to refocus the rule on therapeutic, restorative treatments and to abandon its inclusion of IVF, which is profoundly flawed both legally, therapeutically, and morally, and does nothing to address the underlying pathology."

Catholic Bishops Tell Trump Admin to Not Expand IVF Over Moral Concerns

LifeNews.com

This article states that the NCBC's public comment with the CMA and NACN-USA expresses support for fertility-related insurance that respects unborn human life and the natural process of procreation, while strongly opposing IVF.

USCCB urges Trump administration to 'advance real solutions' instead of IVF

Catholic Standard

This article notes that the NCBC, the CMA, and NACN-USA argue that the proposal lacks sufficient conscience protections, among other objections to IVF.

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Are you a doctor, nurse, patient, health care power of attorney, scientific researcher, medical student or resident, or someone else facing tough ethical decisions in health care and biomedical research? Are you a priest, chaplain, friend, family member, or

someone else asked to advise on these matters? Our team is here to help you understand and apply the moral teachings of the Catholic Church to the challenges you face:

Request a Free Ethics Consultation

Please pray for our work and consider financially supporting our mission of defending the dignity of the human person in health care and biomedical research!

Make a Financial Gift

The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) provides education, guidance, and resources to the Church and society to uphold the dignity of the human person in health care and biomedical research, thereby sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ and his Church. The NCBC envisions a world in which the integral understanding of the human person underlying Catholic teaching on respect for human life and dignity is better understood and more widely embraced in America and worldwide.

The NCBC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.



The National Catholic Bioethics Center | [600 Reed Rd Suite 102](#) | [Broomall, PA 19008 US](#)

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